

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2022

Statement on Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20, 2022

There is no place for violence, hatred, and bigotry in America. Yet, tragically, as last night's attack in Colorado Springs reminds us, too many LGBTQI+ people in the United States—and around the world—continue to face unconscionable attacks. This is especially true for transgender Americans. On Transgender Day of Remembrance, we honor the 32 transgender Americans known to have been taken from us this year by horrific acts of brutality. The true toll is likely much higher, with Black and Brown transgender women disproportionately targeted.

In the face of this ongoing assault, my administration remains deeply committed to strengthening the rights of LGBTQI+ Americans, including transgender Americans. Since taking office, we have made it possible for transgender servicemembers to once again serve proudly and openly in our military, improved the travel experience for transgender Americans, and provided resources to support the mental health of transgender kids and their families. I've directed my team to coordinate across the Federal Government to combat violence against transgender people and advance equality. I continue to urge State leaders to combat the disturbing wave of discriminatory State laws targeting young transgender Americans, legislation that hurts young people who aren't hurting anyone. With Congress poised to pass the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act, I also reiterate my call for them to likewise pass the Equality Act and provide long overdue protections to transgender and all LGBTQI+ Americans.

This is a matter of safety and basic dignity. As we mourn the lives we've lost, let us resolve to continue building a country where every American can live free from fear and discrimination.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 8404; and H.R. 5.

Categories: Statements by the President : Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Subjects: Colorado, shooting in Colorado Springs; Equality Act; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, equality; Mental health programs and services; Respect for Marriage Act; Transgender Day of Remembrance; Transgender servicemembers, status of service in U.S. military.

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